

Pakistan to deport Arabs

PESHAWAR (AP) — Ninety-eight Arabs waiting to be deported Saturday sat inside a filthy old hall once used for weddings, angry about their impending ouster.

"Pakistan cares only what the United States wants, not what Muslims want," said Jordanian Abdul Qudus, accusing Pakistan of selling out to the United States, fearing it might be declared a terrorist state.

Last week, Pakistan launched a police crackdown to flush out Arab nationals living in the country illegally.

Several Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, claimed some of their fundamentalist Islamic foes had found sanctuary in Pakistan or next door in Afghanistan, where they had fought with U.S.-backed insurgents to overthrow the old communist regime.

Pakistan is now trying to identify the Arabs they have in custody, said Masud Shah, police inspector general.

Those wanted for criminal offences at home will be extradited and the others told to leave the country, he said.

"They are here illegally. They cannot stay," he said.

But some of the Arabs, living in this wild frontier city that once

welcomed them as brothers-in-arms, say they feel betrayed.

Mr. Qudus, who said he would be arrested and jailed if he tried to return to Jordan, fought for four years in Afghanistan with renegade rebel chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"We thought we had a golden opportunity in Afghanistan to create a Muslim state. We were fighting not just for Afghans but for all Muslims," he said.

Mr. Qudus said he will now take his dream of an Islamic revolution to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he hopes to establish an Islamic state.

Others, he said, will go to Africa or Tajikistan, where the pro-communist government is battling Islamic militants.

One young Arab militant, who refused to give his name, said he would return to his home in Algeria and join the Islamic Salvation Front.

"Soon, very soon I will leave and go home," he said. He, too, had fought with Mr. Hekmatyar.

"No one said anything about them before because then it was for a noble cause," said Mr. Shah.

Thousands of Arab militants were attracted to Pakistan to fight in what they considered a holy war in Afghanistan, Mr. Shah

said about 2,800 are still in Pakistan.

Some fundamentalist Arabs say Pakistan is a puppet and the United States is pulling the strings.

"This is an American operation. We are not criminals, we are not terrorists," said Ghassam Andulus, a Tunisian visiting his brother in the converted wedding hall deep in the heart of Peshawar's old city.

He screamed at an American journalist: "This is an American conspiracy. You have come here for control."

But Mr. Shah said the crackdown was two months in the planning.

"This was something we had to come to grips with. They cannot justify their staying any longer," he said, referring to the rebel victory in Afghanistan last year.

"The jihad is over."

In Dhaka, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a regional summit Saturday that South Asian countries must protect fundamental rights and fight religious fanaticism.

"We must protect the fundamental rights of our nationals without discrimination. We must counter menace of religious fanaticism and intolerance," he told a meeting.



Somalis rebuild lives in Bardere

BARDERE, Somalia (R) — At the height of the Somali famine, 250 people were buried every day in the southern village of Bardere, but now the U.S. military hails the dusty outpost as its success story in Somalia.

"When we arrived, bodies were literally floating down the river," said U.S. Marine Colonel Buck Bedard, who visited Bardere Saturday with the commander of U.N. forces in Somalia, Turkish General Cevik Bir.

"This is the true success story of people getting back onto their feet," said Col. Bedard.

Since 800 U.S. Marines rolled into Bardere on Christmas Eve, the death toll has dropped to between 10 and 12 a day, now mostly from disease rather than starvation.

The village now has a bustling market and crops are being planted in preparation for the first rains.

Aid agencies say the emergency phase is largely over and de-

velopment and reconstruction work is beginning in Bardere, which has a population of about 15,000.

In a meeting with village elders, Gen. Bir praised the local community for their success in Bardere and assured them there would be no change when U.N. forces take over next month.

"There will be no gap during the transition. Only the faces and uniforms will change," Gen. Bir said.

About 15 men of the new police force greeted the Turkish general, fresh in uniforms delivered a day earlier.

The police station, on the banks of the Juba River, is rudimentary. Prisoners are held in a rusty blue shipping container, with four postcard size holes carved out for air.

Police chief Captain Mohammad Abdi told Reuters petty theft was the main crime but his men had been successful in apprehending murderers.

Murder is dealt with harshly and Capt. Abdi said one man was shot last month. Another execution is due in the next few days.

U.S. Marines have adopted an orphanage in the village and built a school and a playground for the 750 children there.

Gen. Bir's bodyguard handed out balloons and candy while Col. Bedard carried a child on his shoulders during a tour of the orphanage.

"The Marines have made our lives much better now. The children have food and we live in peace," said Yusuf Mohammad, the chief of the village.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Sullivan, who controls a reduced force in Bardere of 350 Marines, said the area was now free of weapons. "We haven't found one weapon in over 35 days," he said.

Two hundred Bosnian troops are due to take over Bardere in the next few weeks as part of the handover to U.N. forces.

Afghanistan haven for militants

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

KABUL — Abdulla Azeem's hold war did not end the day rebels overran the Afghan capital. It became a wider struggle.

Mr. Azeem and other foreign Islamic fighters now want to use Afghanistan as a base from which they can spread their faith to other corners of the world.

To the Afghan government and officials in Cairo, Mr. Azeem is part of a disturbing movement they fear is turning war-scarred Afghanistan into a training centre for "terrorists."

"We are in no hurry," the 26-year-old Egyptian said in an interview in the crumbling hotel in southern Kabul he shares with three Arabs. "We do not think about minutes, days, weeks or months. Our cause will last a lifetime."

Like thousands of other devout young Arabs, Mr. Azeem was recruited by outlawed groups in the Muslim World to help fight the holy war against the Soviet army that invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Diplomats say an estimated 10,000 recruits from at least 20 countries poured into the rebels' base camps in neighbouring Pakistan. They came from countries in the Middle East and Africa, from the Philippines, Indonesia, India and even China.

Trained by Pakistani military intelligence agents, they fought ferociously and bravely during the 14-year war.

The United States and other nations which helped the rebels believed the foreigners would drift away once the Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989.

But the battle-hardened zealots emerged more militant than ever. Months before his ouster on April 16, 1992, President Najibullah warned that Afghanistan was becoming a "terrorist" haven.

After his government collapsed, some foreign veterans left Afghanistan and tried to destabilise secular governments at home.

Their fight for Islam in the battlegrounds — from Algeria to western China.

But many, like Mr. Azeem, remained in exile be-

cause their links with outlawed groups like the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood and Gamaa Al Islamiya made them targets for arrest if they returned home.

From the day it took power, the struggling Islamic government has threatened to expel all foreigners without valid passports and visas.

"We cannot allow these terrorists, these mercenaries to fight the Islamic government," President Burhanuddin Rabbani said in an interview. "It will only bring more sorrow on the nation and the people of Afghanistan won't tolerate it."

The problem has also surfaced in neighbouring Pakistan, where thousands of Arabs had mustered for the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan's interior minister, Shujaat Hussain, says Arabs who are in Pakistan illegally and are found to have links with underground organisations will be deported.

Arabs in Pakistan complain that they are being persecuted.

In Afghanistan, the government's power extends only to the Kabul city limits, if that far, and the warnings of a crackdown have been ignored.

Young men wearing the black-and-white headress of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) stand guard at checkpoints in western Kabul, where two rebel groups have been battling.

Hundreds of militants aligned themselves with the radical Hezb-e-Islami faction headed by Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. His forces fought for nearly a year to oust Mr. Rabbani, and dozens of Pakistani and Saudi fighters died in the fighting, military sources said.

The majority of foreign Arab militants are believed to be in eastern Afghanistan, diplomats and government officials said.

The government of Kunar province is controlled by the Salafis, once one of Islam's most tolerant sects. But the Salafis emerged from the war as fanatics. Often referred to by residents as "the Islamic emirate of Kunar," the provincial government has imposed a strict way of life in which opposition is

considered heresy and punishable by death.

In Nangarhar province, foreign militants are suspected of killing four U.N. workers, including a Briton and a Dutchman, who were dragged from their vehicles and shot last January. The provincial government arrested 17 Arab suspects but released them after they agreed to move their base camps away from the main highway, controlled by Hezb-e-Islami.

Rebel sources say Nangarhar's capital, Jalalabad, is believed to be the Afghan headquarters of Gamaa Al Islamiya, the group linked to the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and to U.S.-based Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, whose alleged followers are suspects in the World Trade Center bombing.

Mahmoud Abu Halima, the former New York City taxi driver from Egypt accused of being the mastermind of the bombing plot, fought in Afghanistan.

Gamaa Al Islamiya was believed to be one of the best foreign units that fought in the war against the Soviets, and its soldiers included the Sheikh's two sons.

The group has about 200 members in Jalalabad. One of its leaders is Mohammad Islambouli, whose brother was hanged in 1982 for leading the team that assassinated Sadat. Mr. Islambouli said the group would continue its holy war against the Egyptian government.

Diplomatic sources say Arab influence also is expanding to northern Afghanistan, where weapons and ammunition are being smuggled to Muslim militants across the border in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan.

In an impassioned plea last month, Mr. Rabbani urged Muslim countries to stop militants from coming to Afghanistan and begged them to allow those already here to return home. He also appealed to Mr. Hekmatyar to stop using foreign militants to try to unseat his government.

Mr. Hekmatyar had a terse reply: "There are no foreigners in Afghanistan."

Southern Somali port still simmers

KISMAYU (AP) — The U.S. Marines and the Belgian troops with the rainy season would hurry up and start, as it usually does this time of year.

True, it is tougher to manoeuvre through boggy roads and fend off mosquitoes the size of dragonflies. But it is the best chance to buy time while trying to cool the tempers of rival clans who have been battling for control of this southern port city of 160,000 people.

Kismayu remains one of Somalia's most intractable problems. It is steeped in factional rivalries brought to a boil by what is basically a property dispute.

Sit down with either side for a half-hour and come away convinced that their claims to particular homes or properties are genuine. Each can trace traditional ownership for generations.

"There are deep-seated animosities. It's a very difficult and emotional issue," U.N. special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe said after a visit to the region Thursday. "It's not going to be solved in a few days or a few weeks."

Kismayu looked to be on the track to peace last month, when clan elders met face-to-face. The militias of Colonel Omar Jess and Mohammad Said Hirs, known as General Morgan, turned in small arms and weapons-mounted vehicles.

A U.S. army contingent handed over control of the Kismayu district to the Belgians on March 5. Thirteen days later, they had to go back.

They left again, but when trouble broke out once more, more than 2,000 Marines went ashore March 25 as a show of force. They were supposed to stay two days. They are still here.

The Red Cross pulled out temporarily last week and other agencies curtailed operations af-

ter Jess supporters sought refuge at the Red Cross, the Medicines Sans Frontiers hospital and a former police compound. They were evacuated by the Belgians as Morgan supporters swarmed outside.

Two grenades exploded inside the Red Cross compound, and there were unconfirmed reports of 15 dead at the police compound.

The balance of power in Kismayu has shifted from Col. Jess to Gen. Morgan since foreign troops arrived in December to safeguard food deliveries. Some 350,000 Somalis died last year from civil war, famine and disease.

The foreign troops vehemently deny charges of favoritism. Military officials say Gen. Morgan's tactics, honed at the National Defence University, run by the U.S. Defence Department in Washington, D.C. served him well.

Most of Jess supporters have fled or been evacuated to towns and villages to the north — like Barca, where the wounded lie on blankets on the floor of a makeshift hospital, or Goob Weyne, where vultures roost in the acacia trees.

"Jess is trying to regroup," said Brigadier-General Raymond Keymeulen, commander of the Belgian forces. "He won't succeed. He doesn't have enough support, enough weapons. Morgan is the winner."

Adm. Howe got a taste of the tension in his first trip to the region.

He was cheered by a crowd of more than 300 Morgan supporters inside the city. But an angry group of more than 100 Jess backers threw stones at Adm. Howe's convoy as he left a meeting with elders in Jelib.

The Belgians fired a warning shot as the crowd became unruly,

pushing in towards the soldiers while chanting: "We don't need Belgians, we don't need Americans."

"We try to keep peace in your land," countered Sergeant Oliver Sevestre, one of the Belgian troops. In response, a man raised a hand-lettered cardboard sign that read: "Belgium troops well come to hell."

Sgt. Sevestre took out his pen and filled in the "i" in "Belgium."

Australian troops to leave

Australia will withdraw its contingent of 900 troops from Somalia next month despite appeals from the United States for them to stay, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Sunday.

Senator Evans said the troops would be replaced by a smaller number of logistic support and headquarters staff.

He said Australia had been pressured by U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, and senior United Nations officials to keep its troops in Somalia.

"(The pressure) was as heavy as I've ever experienced... but when I made clear what is nature of our commitment was, how we were pretty stretched with peacekeeping operations elsewhere, that was well understood," Mr. Evans told the Nine Television network.

Australia's battalion is part of the U.S.-led multinational peacekeeping force in Somalia. The Australian government made it clear when it sent the troops in January the battalion would return home in May.

Australia also has 500 peacekeepers in Cambodia and smaller numbers of troops in the Western Sahara, the Middle East, Pakistan and elsewhere.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq says refugees hurt at Saudi camp

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Saturday that Iraqi refugees at a camp in northern Saudi Arabia had fought Saudi guards with clubs and knives and many refugees were wounded. The refugees had staged a demonstration and burnt down a building and some shops in the camp market, the official Iraqi News Agency said, quoting travellers from Saudi Arabia. The agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, did not say when the incident took place and Saudi officials were not immediately available for comment. The camp at Rafha, close to the Iraqi border, holds about 28,000 Iraqis, some of them former prisoners-of-war who refused to go home after the Gulf war over Kuwait. The others took refuge in Saudi Arabia after fighting in southern Iraq against the Iraqi army and Shiite Muslim rebels. The Iraqi agency said the Saudi authorities sent two armoured battalions of the National Guard to the camp after the disturbance and imposed a curfew. It did not say why the refugees had demonstrated.

Gulf states donate money to Guinea worm programme

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have donated more than \$12 million to a programme run by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to combat the guinea worm disease. Mr. Carter told a news conference in Abu Dhabi Saturday that the UAE has contributed several million dollars and Saudi Arabia up to \$7 million to the programme in India, Pakistan, Latin America and 17 African countries. "We are attempting to eradicate guinea worm disease from the face of the earth... by 1996," Mr. Carter said. The Emirates News Agency said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan had donated more than \$5 million to the Carter Centre in the U.S. state of Georgia, which runs the programme. Guinea worm larvae are transmitted to human victims through contaminated water. They grow inside their human hosts and emerge through the skin, creating painful sores. Mr. Carter said the five-year-old programme cost about \$25 million a year. Guinea worm infections decreased to two million this year from 10 when the programme started.

Bosnian president wins Saudi prize

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia awarded Bosnian Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic the King Faisal International Prize for his services to Islam. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the \$93,333 prize was given Saturday in recognition of Mr. Izetbegovic's "Islamic efforts and in appreciation for his jihad stands." Saudi Arabia has been at the forefront of Muslim countries providing humanitarian and financial aid to Bosnian Muslims fighting Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Saudi Arabia started granting the King Faisal Prize, worth 350,000 riyals (\$93,333), in 1981 to Islamic scholars and leading scientists. So far, 80 scholars from 26 countries, including nine Americans and nine Britons, have been awarded the prize. Winners, who this year included French woman scientist, also receive a 22-carat gold medal. This year's winners included Egyptian sociologist Hassan Al Sa'adi and a three-member French team involved in AIDS research named as Luc Montanier, Francoise Soumou and Sherman Jean-Claude. SPA said the physics award was shared between a German and an American scientist — Herbert Walter of Munich University and Steven Chu of Stanford University, California.

7 arrested in UAE for drug smuggling

DUBAI (R) — Six men and a woman have been arrested in the Gulf emirate of Dubai in the past month on drug smuggling charges, a newspaper reported Sunday. Gulf News quoted security sources as saying a British woman with a forged passport had been arrested with four kilograms of heroin while transit through Dubai. The British embassy was not available for comment. The English-language daily said the woman told police a Pakistani had given her a bag to carry to Turkey. The daily said a total of 14.17 kilograms of heroin and 122 kilograms of hashish were confiscated in another five cases involving three Pakistanis, two Tanzanians and a Mauritanian. "All suspects were detained at the Dubai police headquarters and will be charged with smuggling and possession of drugs," the daily said. Similar cases in the past have carried jail sentences of around 15 years.

Palestinian kills four over family honour

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A 55-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip killed four members of his family after rumours spread in his village that they had violated the family's honour, news reports said Sunday. Abdullah Suleiman Taaban from the village of Zawaida turned himself in after killing a daughter, son, daughter-in-law and son-in-law Thursday, Arab newspapers said. He told police "he felt good after cleansing the family name." The Arab reports said. The Israeli news agency Itim said he told police that villagers had talked about the four engaging in group sex that involved incest. The reports did not make clear if there was any truth to the rumours. Mr. Taaban tied up his daughter Hanna, 19, son-in-law Mohammad Taaban, 22, and daughter-in-law Ahlam Taaban, 17, and questioned them for several hours before strangling them, the Arab reports said. Later he fatally stabbed his son Akram, 21. In another crime, a 40-year-old West Bank Arab recently released from a mental institution killed his son and three nephews by throwing them into a well Saturday, Arab papers reported. The man fled from his village near Kalkilya but was arrested at an Israeli army roadblock, the papers said. The victims were ages 1½ to 5.

Egypt cuts fees on tourist boats in Suez

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt, trying to revive its tourist industry, has cut fees for cruise ships using the Suez Canal which stop in Egyptian ports. Suez Canal Authority Chairman Mohammad Izzat Adel said, Mr. Adel told Reuters late Saturday the cuts of 35 per cent in passenger boat fees, requested by Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan, would take immediate effect and would be reviewed at the end of May. Only ships which stopped in Egyptian ports would be eligible. Egypt's \$3 billion tourist industry, a vital foreign currency earner, has been devastated in the last six months by attacks by militants fighting to overthrow the government. Officials have estimated losses so far at up to a billion dollars. Hotel managers reported occupancy rates of about 40 per cent in March, down by about 50 per cent on last year. The fee cuts were unlikely to give more than a marginal boost to the industry, which hosted three million tourists last year. Canal sources said 45 passenger ships used the canal in 1992, and 41 ships in 1991.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les 400 Coups de Virgile
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Power that Be
21:10 Laurel and Hardy
21:30 News in English
22:30 Jordan Weekly
22:40 Street Justice

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:07 (Sunrise) Doha
12:37 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:06 Maghreb
20:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 628264, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Gradual rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 6/20
Aqaba 12/29
Deserts 4/23
Jordan Valley 10/28
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 25 Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Kanaan 790286
Dr. Mohammad Shaghat 626993
Dr. Fakhr Teyeh 855980
Dr. Ahmad Khamis 747684
Firas pharmacy 783336
Fendous pharmacy 691912
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Simoud pharmacy 649495
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (-)
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufod Dama (-)
Khaleel pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
First Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664117/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666146
Imam, Al-Mashraf 771012
Al-Bekir, J. Ashrafish 771112/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
ZARQA:
Zarga Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Rui Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
IBB:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555

Great Catholic Hospital (02)72775
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)87100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:20 Damascus (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:30 Bangkok (RJ)
20:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
09:15 Aden (AL)
11:25 Cairo (MS)
14:35 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
16:35 Istanbul (TK)
21:00 Dubai (EM)
09:30 Khartoum (RJ)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Sunday hosts a breakfast for members of the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

Crown Prince urges formation of Arab advanced studies federation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Thought Forum, (ATF), hosted a breakfast for the participants of the Human Development in the Arab World Seminar organised by the ATF and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP).

The Crown Prince addressed the gathering briefly and discussed with them the progress their seminar has achieved.

Prince Hassan stressed in his address the danger of emphasising Arab particularism over the universality of the shared objectives of those concerning themselves with the "human condition."

In this context, the Crown Prince referred to the United Nations human condition report, and the importance of a graduated Arab approach in the implementation of the sum total of the report's component parts.

Prince Hassan pointed out the conspicuous absence of an important element in the human condition report when referring to disparities.

He referred in particular to the disparity that exists between Israel and its Arab neighbours and the importance of dealing with that issue despite the fact that the removal of disparity does not mean the removal of political contradictions.

His Royal Highness also stressed the need for a coherent and focused "Arab message" in the humanitarian work being carried out today.

The Arab voice must become an active part of the universal message.

In his context, Prince Hassan called on the members of the ATF to consider the establishment of an Arab Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies to bring together the various efforts being carried out throughout the region and focus them on the issues at hand.

Sharif Zeid reviews labour issues with Arab ministers attending meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday met separately in his office with the ministers of labour of Egypt, Syria, Sudan and Yemen to discuss the outcome of the Arab Labour Conference, due to end Monday, and to review Jordan's cooperation with those countries in labour-related affairs.

Egyptian Minister Asem Abdul Haq said that Jordan played an instrumental role in the success of the conference and laying the foundation for the next steps in cementing pan-Arab ties.

Ali Khalil, the Syrian minister, expressed hope that the Amman meeting would open the way for genuine solidarity among Arab states.

In saying that Jordan was attaching great importance to its relations with Syria, Sharif Zeid added that Jordan hoped its endeavours together with those of Syria would serve the higher national interests.

At a meeting with Sudan's Minister of Labour Dominic Casiano, Sharif Zeid said Jordan would pursue its endeavours to serve Arab causes.

The Prime Minister also met Yemen's Minister of Labour Abdul Rahman Diban and voiced Jordan's total support for Yemen's drive towards initiating democracy and achieving socio-economic development.

At Sunday's session, Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Director General Baker Mohammad Rasoul delivered a short address in which he said the wide range of discussions during the meeting, the pan-Arab strategy on employment and other important topics tackled by the delegates would bring forth a new stage of inter-Arab cooperation.

He added that the Arab countries should help the Palestinian working women and corroborate their role in the on-going resistance to Israeli occupation.

Road accidents are on the rise

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Ministry of Health Development Mamoun Maabreh Sunday said road accidents account for 3.7 per cent of the total deaths in the Kingdom.

Addressing a symposium on prevention of road accidents on behalf of Health Minister Aref Bataineh. The symposium is held to mark World Health Day.

Dr. Maabreh stressed the importance of public awareness in reducing the number of such accidents and the resulting deaths and injuries.

It is our shared responsibility to curb such accidents, define methods and means of prevention, and promote awareness and knowledge among citizens," Dr. Maabreh said.

Also addressing the symposium Brigadier Ahmad Al Dmour of the Public Security Department (PSD) said road accidents are on the increase, despite all efforts made by the department to reduce them.

He said the number of car accidents last year totalled 20,970, resulting in 388 deaths and 10,676 injuries.

Dr. Ahmad Barnawi, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the celebration said accidents and their complications are a major health problem, since they constitute a major reason for mortality, let alone the partial and permanent disability caused to some victims and the great financial burden it places on the country's economy.

Participants discussed the role of the Ministry of Health in preventing road accidents and occupational diseases.

They also discussed the role of the Civil Defence Department in dealing with injuries caused by road accidents and the use of fire arms.

The symposium is held by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services, Public Security and Civil Defence.

Police hold 2 confessed robbers in attack on tourist

AMMAN (R) — Police have arrested two men for an attempted robbery in which one of them shot and wounded a Swiss woman tourist, official sources said on Sunday.

Anna Amacher, 34, a secretary of the Swiss embassy in London, was shot in the shoulder on Friday near the historic city of Shobak in southern Jordan.

The two men, one of whom fired a pistol, have told police they were drunk and were trying to rob Ms. Amacher and two other Swiss women travelling with her, one source said.

"Both will be sent to court soon and tried on charges of attempted robbery," the source added.

The bullet used matched the pistol carried by the key suspect, who is in his early 20s.

Ms. Amacher, a secretary from Bern, is recovering well from the shoulder injury at Amman's Al Hussein Medical Centre and will be discharged in the next few days, doctors said.

She and her two colleagues, who work in the Swiss embassy in Cairo, were visiting Jordan on holiday. They were driving near Shobak in a hired car when the gunman tried to flag them down.

They did not stop and the gunman fired.

Bernardino Scioli, the Swiss ambassador to Jordan, said Ms. Amacher was in good condition and would be able to go home in three days, "she is recovering very well," he said.

None of the three women have diplomatic status, he added.

Mr. Scioli and officials ruled out any political motive for the attack. "It has nothing to do with politics. This (suggestion) is nonsense," the ambassador told Reuters.

Illiteracy declining, joblessness, poverty increasing — expert

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A working paper submitted to the second day of the Human Development in the Arab Region Seminar in Amman pointed to the sharp decline in Jordan's illiteracy rate over the last 30 years and noted other significant achievements.

The paper, submitted by former Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, said two-thirds of the country's population was illiterate in 1960; today Jordan's illiteracy rate stands at 16 per cent, an accomplishment of the compulsory educational programmes for all children of the Kingdom, he added.

But, the paper noted, that among the current illiterate, females account for double the number of males.

Between 1974 and 1985, the per capita income in Jordan greatly improved but it seriously decreased between 1988 and 1991, the paper continued.

During the same two periods, it said, the Kingdom's population grew by 44 per cent, which meant a decrease in the per capita income rate by 30 per cent.

Noting that from 1992 economic growth surged to 11 per cent in Jordan, Dr. Khatib pointed out that the growth of population followed the increase in the rates of unemployment and the emergence of a large gap between the rich and the poor.

In the last decade, Jordan witnessed the elimination of the so-called middle class, as the rates of poverty increased leaving only a minority enjoying most of the country's wealth, Dr. Khatib maintained.

He also said, the increase in population in recent years was not only a result of fertility but rather because of migrations following developments and conflicts in the region.

Referring to other imbalances, Dr. Khatib said individuals' income vary from one Jordanian governorate to another and between men and women.

Such differences are negative indicators and should be gradually eliminated, Dr. Khatib maintained.

The seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was attended by academics, intellectuals, writers and other scholars from the Arab World.

UNRWA to levy fees in Jordan

Agency staff decide to launch action to support demands

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees said Sunday it would start levying token charges for health services and part of education services it offers to Palestinian refugees in Jordan with effect from July 1.

Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget for this year.

The agency, which offers health, education and social services to about 2.6 million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, will also be levying fees from its beneficiaries in Syria. Those in the occupied territories and Lebanon will be excluded.

"We hope to raise half of the actual deficit through these fees," Mr. Brown told the Jordan Times. "The commissioner-general (of UNRWA) is hopeful that the other half could be addressed through contributions" from donors, he added.

Adel Irsheid, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, contacted by the Jordan Times, declined comment, saying he would not make any statement over the phone.

But Reuters quoted Mr. Irsheid as voicing Jordan's opposition to the UNRWA decision.

"We insist on our position which is that we reject any proposals to reduce UNRWA services because the

agency is obliged according to its mandate to care for refugees until the Arab-Israeli crisis is resolved."

The official was also quoted as saying by Reuters that his department was not officially informed of the UNRWA move.

Mr. Brown said: "There will not be any reduction of UNRWA services, but there will not be any increases either."

He said the issue was discussed at a recent meeting in Vienna of a UNRWA advisory committee and representatives of countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

The UNRWA official said the agency was planning to levy 500 fils per patient per visit to its clinics in Jordan, but "special hardship cases on emergency welfare programmes, pregnant women and children under three will be exempt."

In education, the levy will be limited to the agency's two vocational training centres in Amman at the rate of \$25 per school year for day scholars and \$10 a month for boarding students, he said.

The two centres offer training to 1,600 students.

Mr. Brown estimated that the agency would be able to collect \$250,000 from the health services levy and \$60,000 to \$80,000 from vocational training centre.

UNRWA spends JD 62 million for its programmes in Jordan, which hosts nearly 1,011,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the agency, with 234,000 of them living in camps.

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Jordan decided Sunday to stage a one-day strike on Wednesday to press their demands.

A meeting held at the UNRWA Vocational Training Centre in Wadi Seer also decided that the strike would be followed by further unspecified action if the agency did not respond to their demands.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting voiced protest at a UNRWA decision not to grant any salary increases this year.

During the meeting, which was attended by 137 out of 140 members representing the agency's different councils, speakers criticised what they said was a slow reaction of UNRWA unions in Jordan to new measures adopted by the agency, including a levying of fees from certain health and education sectors with effect from July 1.

They also criticised the unions for what they saw as weak reaction to an episode involving "insulting remarks" made by a senior UNRWA official against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The comments referred to were made by Angela Williams, director of Social Services of UNRWA, at a meeting in Amman two months ago.

Mrs. Williams, responding to a formal complaint filed by UNRWA union officials, sent a letter of apology to the

signatories of the complaint, and the UNRWA headquarters said the matter was closed.

Ibrahim Al Akhras, president of the General Services Committee, said: "The insult (against Mr. Arafat) was an irresponsible act and the apology is not sufficient."

In Sunday's meeting he said the "apology" was not sufficient since it was addressed to "individuals rather than the Palestinian people."

On other issues, Mr. Akhras said the new measure of levying of fees from UNRWA health and education services was limited to Jordan.

"It is a question of politics and not of budget," he said. "This policy is applied only in Jordan. They (the agency) describe Syria as an emergency case."

But, Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, said the new measure of levying of fees for health services — with certain exemptions — and partial education services was applicable to Syria also, while Lebanon and the occupied territories were excluded (see separate story).

Mr. Akhras said a decision by UNRWA to reduce employees would affect 42 per cent of the staff; 2,383 members out of the 5,673 staff.

There was no immediate confirmation that the agency was planning termination of employees.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Akhras, Mohammad Mheisan, president of the UNRWA Teachers' Committee, Abdul Rahman Hamdan, president of Manual Workers Committee, and Nayel Abu Safyeh, representing staff at the general headquarters of the agency.

'Kuwait to back full rights of Arab workers'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of Kuwait Workers (FKW) will fully support the rights of those who have sustained losses as a result of developments in the Gulf and will help them regain these rights, according to Abdullah Al Baker, chairman of the FKW who is taking part in the Arab Labour Conference in Amman.

The federation, he said, would particularly work towards restoring the rights of those who used to work for Kuwaiti government ministries, organisations and public sector firms.

Reports in the Jordanian press last week quoted several Kuwaiti delegates, including the head of the official delegation to the labour conference, Mohammad Shaban Al Shamer, as saying that their country was committed to granting all previous employees their full rights.

The papers quoted Aqeel Ahmad Jaser, director of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Industry, as saying that the aim of Kuwait's participation in the Arab Labour Conference was to contribute to the re-establishment of pan-Arab solidarity, and as a goodwill gesture, Kuwait will be ready to grant workers of various nationalities their full rights.

Somalis voice disappointment say Arabs failed to help them

By Sausan Ghosbeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Somali delegation took the opportunity of the Arab Labour Conference to voice their disappointment over the Arab inaction to address the problems of the Somali people.

"Our prime reason for attending this conference is to bitterly portray the Somali people's opinion of the observer position their Arab brethren took," said Abdullah Taher Yusuf, head of the Somali delegation to the labour conference in Amman in his speech before the Arab delegates.

"Brethren, foreign countries helped us and you did not. They came to aid Somalia before you did, despite the spiritual and special difference between us and them," he added.

Mr. Yusuf, the director of the Arab Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mogadishu, operates mainly out of the United Arab Emirates at present.

He explained that currently, the only "functioning government offices are those outside Somalia."

Mr. Yusuf maintained that he represents Somalia as a country and not just one of the factions.

The Somali delegation submitted four requests to the conference and are optimistic that they will be approved.

But, approval does not mean the execution of these requests, said Ahmad Askar, a member of the Somali delegation.

The first request, according to Mr. Yusuf, is to call on the Arab countries to give priorities to employing the Somalis that are currently residents of these countries.

He said there are 15,000 Somali workers in the Arab countries, most of whom live in the Gulf.

Their working conditions are unstable, Mr. Yusuf added, and thus workers resort to sending their families to live in the West, while they remain working in the Gulf, knowing that they can be fired any day.

The second request is to appeal to Arab World to allow the Somalis passage through their countries and temporary residence if needed.

"The Arab countries closed their doors in our faces... except for Yemen and it became easier for Somalis to live in Western countries than to enter or pass through an Arab country, Mr. Yusuf maintained.

He stated that there is no passage out for the Somalis in Iraq.

He explained that the border between Iraq and Syria are closed, and Jordan is not allowing Somalis into its borders at the present time.

Mr. Yusuf said he understood that Jordan has economic difficulties, but, if Somalis reside in Jordan, he clarified, their stay will be paid for by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The third request, he said, is to exempt Somalia from dues owed to the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), revealing that this exemption would be an indication of moral support.

The fourth request, according to Mr. Yusuf, is to train Somalis in professional centres in different Arab countries.

Mr. Askar, a businessman, said the Somali delegation "did not want to impose heavy demand, and their requests were within the circle of the conference's capacity."

He added that in meetings of the government level, we must propose some form of political and economic assistance.

The infrastructure of Somalia is totally "destroyed" the Somalis delegates concurred.

To rebuild it, Mr. Askar said, there needs to be peace, stability and a form of functional government.

Undergraduate wins 2 distinction awards

RAMZI TAYSEER ABDEL JABER, a Jordanian senior student at Indiana University in Bloomington specializing in Management Information Systems and Decision Science at the School of Business Administration won two awards of distinction in an all-student competition.

Mr. Abdel Jaber was awarded this year's Rawles Key Award for the most distinguished record in academics, leadership and extra-curricular activities.

He also won the Senior Scholastic Award for his achievement as the top student at the School of Business Administration.



HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent visits GHQ, air force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited the Armed Forces Headquarters and met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai, the chief of staff, for land forces, assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Armed Forces inspector general. Prince Hassan congratulated Gen. Mirai on his new post, wishing him success in carrying out his new responsibilities. Prince Hassan also discussed with him a number of issues of interest to the Armed Forces. The Crown Prince also visited the Royal Jordanian Air Force headquarters, where he met with the Air Force chief of staff for a while.

Princess Basma reviews Zarqa health services

ZARQA (Petra) — Princess Basma Sunday visited the Zarqa government hospital where she was briefed by the hospital director, Mamoun Maghairah, on the services offered to citizens. Dr. Maghairah said the hospital provides health services to 750,000 citizens. The hospital, he said, includes 260 beds, in addition to 30 beds in the intensive care and dialysis units. Dr. Maghairah added that the hospital includes 30 specialised clinics covering 15 medical majors. Last year the hospital treated 22,000 patients, and handled 10,000 surgeries, in addition to 7,000 maternity cases, he said. Princess Basma toured the children's and internist wards and the dialysis unit.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Nawraf Al Bukhari at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suh Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Re-creation" by Jordanian, French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of a children's drawings at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lujaina Al Aseel at Baladna Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture "Recent Discoveries on the Citadel Hill

of Tell Al Husa" by Dr. Pamela Watson at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7 p.m.

OPERA

- ★ H919 "Budapest Spring Festival" opera concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

FRENCH FILM WEEK

- ★ French film entitled "Un Dimanche A La Campagne" at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m.

SEMINAR

- ★ English language seminar for English language teachers about "Writing as a Process: From Guided to Free" at 5:30 p.m. at the British Council.

THE ABU RUMMAN FAMILY

Wishes to thank the Ambassador of the U.S. and everyone from the American Embassy who expressed their condolences during our time of grief. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will long be remembered by our family.

Hmoud Abu Rumman

For Professional Women Only

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Weekly Political Pulse

Shadow of hawkish Likud cautions tactical discretion

By Waleed Sadi

THE election of the hawk Benjamin Netanyahu as leader of the Israeli Likud party gives me some shivers not only because of his outlandish views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the basis for its resolution but also because of the high probability that the next Israeli general elections could take place much sooner than 1996.

Mr. Netanyahu is on record as against any meaningful territorial compromises with Syria on the Golan Heights and totally against any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the grounds that they are part and parcel of "Eretz Israel". Translated into real terms the minute the Likud resumes power in Israel, the Arab parties in general and the Palestinians in particular might as well kiss the peace process goodbye and start realigning their perspectives with regard to the available means to liberate their territories from Israeli occupation.

If this analysis holds water, then the Arab side, especially the Palestinians, should stop campaigning for the return of the Likud to power by changing the style of their diplomatic and armed efforts during the reign of the incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a bid to decelerate the resurrection of the Likudniks at the expense of the Labourites. This is not to suggest that the Arab side, including the Palestinians, must entertain any false illusions about the sincerity or willingness of Mr. Rabin and his government to withdraw from all the Arab territories on the basis of U.N. Security Council

resolutions 242 and 338. Most probably, Mr. Rabin could be forthcoming and accommodating when it comes to the Golan Heights but not at all reasonable on the occupied Palestinian territories. This is where Syria and Palestine may part company on future strategy be it related to the bilateral peace talks or to any other means that could be contemplated for the liberation of occupied Arab lands.

Damascus obviously has a clearer stake in keeping Mr. Rabin in and Mr. Netanyahu out for the simple fact that the former offers a reasonable degree of mutual accommodation while the latter would mean the end of all thoughts and hopes for a peaceful resolution of the occupation of Syrian territory. For the Palestinians, the difference between the two Israeli political parties is less clear and more nebulous on the key ingredients that are necessary for the settlement of the Palestinian case. Lately, however, Mr. Rabin has been making some noise about accepting the application of Resolution 242 to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, in the process, suggesting that territorial compromises over the West Bank and Gaza be at least not ruled out. In so doing, Mr. Rabin appears to be considerably more promising than his Likud rival Netanyahu. Coupled with the fact that the Labour Party has made several moves in the direction of dealing with the PLO head on, there is cause to believe that even for the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict the Labour Party is

substantially more reasonable than the Likudniks when it comes to the ongoing search for a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian question.

Against such a backdrop, the Arab side has a vested interest in changing their diplomatic and armed style against Israel with a view to keeping the Rabin government at the helm and the Likudniks away from the centre of power for as long as necessary. But are the Palestinians doing that or the opposite in the articulation of their positions and implementation of their policies vis-a-vis Israel at this critical time when the peace process is about to resume?

If the widely held view that at best there is no real difference between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu, and at worst, the Labour Party had done more harm to the Arab side than the Likud continues to dominate Arab thinking, then the Arab side could very well end up having what it has bargained for — Mr. Netanyahu or Likudniks at the helm even prior to the 1996 general elections. Should this be the case, there is every sign that the peace process, which is already anemic, will die in no time. This does not mean that the Arab parties should simply accommodate Mr. Rabin and his government on the fundamentals of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rather, it is a prescription for using discretion wisely and effectively in the pursuit of our primary objectives.

Records and propaganda

In an editorial article a few days ago, a right-wing Israeli newspaper launched a venomous attack on Jordan and its rights record. The Jerusalem Post attempted to cast doubt on the sincerity of this country in its pursuit of peace and human rights. Of all reasons, it seized on a reported made by the new French minister of welfare, Simone Veil, not to attend a recent conference on human rights held in Amman under the auspices of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan allegedly because she discovered at the last minute that Jordan does not allow any person to enter the country without passport bearing the stamp of Israel.

On the basis of this proposition, the newspaper went to great lengths in demanding Jordan's commitment to peace and human rights.

Under the Israeli story about Ms. Veil's cancellation of a visit to Jordan is true or not, it cannot and should not be bearing on the Kingdom's human rights record or commitment to pluralistic democracy against formidable odds both domestic and external. It has escaped the attention of the editors of the Post, the-minded Israelis that there is still a state of war between Israel and Jordan and because of this war regime, the two countries have imposed a string of constraints on all relations between the two states, including the ongoing peace process comes to fruition, many will change between the two neighbouring countries, perhaps, current legislations banning the entry of nationals with passport bearing the stamp of Israel, an existing impediment, and any similar ones, be seen as reasonable cause to suspect Jordan's efforts to reintroduce democracy in a meaningful

the record straight, Jordan embarked on its path pluralism and human rights a couple of years after the region ever heard of the Gulf crisis. To Jordan's march towards democracy as a catalyst aiming to recover its losses in the West in the wake of the Gulf war in 1990-1991 is obviously a gross lie and a serious misrepresentation of history. It so happens that the U.S. State Department at the human rights records of all countries on an annual basis. Had the Post bothered to examine the most up to date Department report on human rights, it would have discovered that Jordan, unlike Israel, is mentioned as a human rights violator. If Washington is not sufficient for the Israeli press, then they go to the international reports on the human rights worldwide. Again Jordan's human rights record is untarnished and clear of any reference to serious rights violations. Israel, on the other hand, is the object of international scrutiny and the object of many nations reports condemning its human rights not only within the West Bank and Gaza Strip but in Israel proper.

It is that Jordan is deeply and irrevocably committed to parliamentary democracy and human rights. In 1989 parliamentary elections, which were held in freedom, the country made great strides to deepen its democracy and plant new seeds for it in the Jordanian life. No one is claiming that there has reached the end of the road and that there is left to be done. On the contrary, there is a great deal to be done, but at least we are trying and registering success.

people in Israel are obviously concerned about a propaganda that Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East. For this purpose, newspapers are only too prepared and too eager to say about us. Their attempts can only fail, because the future obviously does not lie with the Likudniks principles.

THE PRESS COMMENTARIES

Arabic daily said Sunday that there was no need for the Arab side to hurry to the peace negotiations with Israel. The holding of the ninth session is not important at this stage. The Palestinians are involved in fierce resistance against the forces, what is more important is the continuation and the of resistance in the occupied Arab lands, said the Arab Americans and the Israelis are drawing the Arab negotiations which could be futile and result in nothing for the paper. What is of our concern now is not the peace with the Zionist forces in Palestine, the paper said. Such a mobilisation, continued the paper, is bound to the Israeli military arsenal and about American-Zionist alliance. The escalation of violence and the up of resistance is something the Israelis and the Arab never thought would emerge after long years of peace, but it turned out that the intifada has now started to first chapter of the demise of the Jewish state in the paper pointed out. The paper said that the situation now resembles that which existed during the time when the Americans were anxious to hold negotiations with the Palestinians to end the conflict and were met with a wall of silence. As the U.S.-Israeli alliance in the paper, said the paper, the Arab parties in general and the Arab side should pursue their concerted efforts to defeat the Israelis on the ground.

The Netanyahu paradox

By Haim Baram



Benjamin Netanyahu

WEST JERUSALEM — Benjamin ("Bibi") Netanyahu, 43, won the Likud leadership contest overwhelmingly, garnering 52 per cent of the vote, and defeating his arch-enemy David Levy who only got 27 per cent. The other contestants, Benny Begin and Moshe Katzav, managed only negligible support.

This has been the ugliest internal election in Israel's history, involving allegations of sexual blackmail, telephone tapping and even a mysterious videotape purporting to illustrate Netanyahu's infidelities. The Israeli police, dubious private detectives of the worst possible kind and equally obnoxious spies and sidekicks stoked the fire of hatred between the former foreign minister David Levy, and his former deputy Netanyahu. Mr. Levy was described by Mr. Netanyahu on Israeli TV as a "mafia-type senior politician, surrounded by criminals." Mr. Levy fought back courageously, and "Bibi's" allegations are apparently groundless, but nothing could prevent his sensational showing in the elections.

For the first time in Likud's history, the leader was elected by the rank and file members in American-style primaries. Some 142,000 out of 216,000 registered party members actually cast their vote on March 24, and the next day Mr. Netanyahu celebrated his victory at an open air rally, chanting empty slogans and succeeding, as usual, in saying absolutely nothing in a lengthy speech.

Mr. Netanyahu was born in Jerusalem to an extreme-right family, staunch supporters of the Irgun and Menachem Begin. This avid chauvinism did not prevent the family from emigrating to the U.S. when Bibi was 14. He returned at 18 to serve in the army, following his legendary older brother's footsteps. Yonni Netanyahu was killed during the hostage rescue operation at Entebbe in 1976. Bibi served in his brother's elite commando unit. He returned to the U.S. to complete his masters degree at MIT in Boston, befriended by the Likud ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens. When Mr. Yitzhak Shamir formed a right-wing government in 1990, Mr. Netanyahu became Mr. Levy's

deputy at the foreign ministry. Mr. Levy, who does not speak English, detested Bibi, and forced him to flee to the prime minister's office in 1991, after boycotting the Madrid peace conference because Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens insisted on giving Mr. Netanyahu, their protégé, a leading role in putting the Israeli case to the international media.

The victorious Netanyahu is far from being secure in his official title as Likud chairman. Mr. Levy, whose 27 per cent support came mainly from the Likud strongholds in the development towns and poor neighbourhoods, has announced his refusal to accept the verdict, and snubbed the new leader vociferously and publicly. The police probe, due to end on April 2, may prove to be a new Pandora's box, and Mr. Levy is likely to give vent to his deeply embedded feelings that the Likud election was twisted and distorted by Mr. Netanyahu's allegations against him.

The energetic new leader tried to ignore these internal obstacles, and managed to work out a truce between himself and Mr. Levy's influential brother, Maxin, the mayor of Lod and a leading figure among young social politicians. He also summoned, on March 29, the leaders of the extreme-right parties, Moledet and Tzomet, and the National Religious Party, in order to reorganise the opposition against Mr. Rabin's government, after nine months of virtual paralysis.

Mr. Netanyahu is very wary,

not only of Mr. Levy. He knows that Ariel Sharon, who wisely avoided the leadership contest, is lurking behind him, waiting for his first serious blunder. Mr. Levy, Mr. Sharon and Mr. Benny Begin, who despise each other, now have a common vested interest in tripping up the new leader. They will aim at undermining him and to force new primaries before the next general election in 1996.

Hardest of hardliners

Mr. Netanyahu, on the other hand, harbours a completely different scheme. He hopes to bring down the Rabin government over the issue of internal security, and to lead his party to an early election victory. The latest series of shootings and stabings in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip during March constitutes, ironically, good tidings for a demagogue like Mr. Netanyahu who promises to stamp out terrorism without any territorial concessions to the Arab countries and the Palestinians, which sounds just like Mr. Sharon.

Mr. Netanyahu, the sweet "reasonable" poses on the TV screens notwithstanding, is by far the most radical expansionist and Arab basher in Likud. He supports the death penalty for Palestinian guerrillas, and seeks every opportunity to subvert the Camp David accords. He was enthusiastically supported by the best known extremists in the Israeli political arena, including

Guela Cohen and her anti-Camp David son, Tzahi Hanegbi, a Likud MK and Netanyahu aide-de-camp.

Hence the amazing paradox. Of the three principle contenders for Likud's leadership (Mr. Katzav was an also-ran), Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Benny Begin were the most committed to the cause of Greater Israel, and oppose any territorial concessions whatsoever. Mr. Levy is reputed to support an agreement with the Syrians on the Golan and Camp David style self-rule for the Palestinians. On human rights, Mr. Begin is opposed to the death penalty and mass deportations, and he once portrayed the inclusion of the Moledet party in Mr. Shamir's coalition as an "abomination" (1990). Mr. Levy is normally silent on such issues, in order to mollify his usually hot-headed constituency.

Mr. Netanyahu comes out worst on both issues. He is openly militarist, expansionist, and very harsh as far as human rights are concerned. He has the mentality and bearing of a right-wing senator from Alabama: contemptuous of the Third World, believing that "terrorism" can be eradicated only by brute force, refusing to recognise the connection between oppression and uprising, nationalist to the core, a profound admirer of the apartheid regime in South Africa, a strong supporter of Israel's alleged nuclear deterrent.

But Mr. Netanyahu, whose policies, pronouncements and beliefs are the furthest from the official position of Washington,

was elected because the mainstream Likud supporters feel that he can "explain" his anti-peace platform to the Clinton administration and the American people! His heavily accented American English, and his general air of a middle class U.S. politician from TV soap operas, endeared him to the Likud electorate. Since the principal ambition of the average Likud voter is to humiliate the Arabs without losing even the tiniest bit of American aid, Mr. Netanyahu was conceived as the ideal choice.

And a new president

Liberal observers, duly dismayed by Mr. Netanyahu's election to the chairmanship of Israel's largest party, drew some comfort from the success of the Labour Party's candidate, Ezer Weizman, who was elected by the Knesset to be the seventh president of Israel on March 24. Mr. Weizman, ex-RAF pilot and Likud hawk who switched to the dovish wing of Labour, is very popular among senior Egyptian leaders and seeks an accommodation with the PLO. But despite his reputation as a maverick, his role as president is strictly limited to ceremonial functions. He may, hopefully, irk Mr. Rabin occasionally but his principal function is likely to be confined to generous renditions of his undoubted charm. A cruel society, with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu as principal leaders, and the lovable but powerless Weizman to sweeten the bitter pill — Middle East International.

Some experts question whether sanctions work

By Arthur Allen
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — From its carpeted chambers on the East River in Manhattan, the U.N. Security Council has upended millions of lives in the past two years with edict upon edict intended to punish pariah states.

Washington has led the way as the council used economic sanctions on Yugoslavia, Iraq, Haiti and Libya, among others.

U.S. officials now are weighing sanctions against North Korea for its refusal to permit inspections that might reveal a nuclear weapons programme.

But rather than hitting the seats of power, the blows sometimes land on the heads of the humble: In Port-Au-Prince, Belgrade and Baghdad, the wages of sinful governments are paid by citizens struggling to keep fed, clothed and healthy amid growing shortages and soaring inflation.

The major goals of the sanctions — the ouster of Saddam Hussein, peace in Bosnia, the return of an elected Haitian president — have not been achieved. In fact, sanctions may have bolstered the regimes in Iraq and Serbia.

Some specialists in international relations question whether the Security Council, no longer hindered by superpower confrontation, has administered its tough judgments without thinking deeply enough about their effects.

Others, such as John Chipman, a scholar at the International Institute for Strategic Affairs in London, believe sanctions are worthwhile and necessary despite their unintended victims.

Expecting sanctions to topple tyrants is "too tough a standard," Mr. Chipman said. In his view, it is enough that they build international consensus against tyrannical regimes.

Economic sanctions are never leakproof and there is no evidence they alone ever brought a

government to its knees. Fidel Castro's Cuba has persevered for decades under a strict U.S. trade embargo, even managing to hang on after losing its allies in the former Soviet bloc.

The tight embargo on Iraq has caused malnutrition and the spread of disease among the people, who have no say about whether Saddam Hussein complies with U.N. resolutions passed

after the Gulf war in 1991. Enough supplies get through to keep the economy afloat, however, and Saddam Hussein's inner circle has found ways of obtaining luxury goods from Jordan, Turkey and Syria.

Saddam Hussein seems strong enough to remain in power, but U.N. monitoring of his weapons programmes makes him less of a threat to his neighbours, said

Hans Binnendijk, director of the Institute for Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University in Washington.

In Haiti and Yugoslavia, trade strictures have created an unsavory culture of smugglers, procurers and black marketers while the poor must barter and scrounge for basics.

If sanctions do not seem to

work, why does the U.S. government continue to pursue them? "There's a frustration, a sense that you must do something," Mr. Binnendijk said. "Economic sanctions are a tool that is easy to reach for. There's hope that, through combinations of politics and magic, it might work."

And there is always the hope that the end will justify the means.

Mr. Chipman noted that the U.S.-imposed trade and investment embargo of South Africa in 1985 led to widespread layoffs of black workers but also contributed to the white government's decision to begin dismantling apartheid.

"The black workers suffered the most, but it was they who stood up and said, 'we think it's a bloody good idea,'" he said in a telephone interview.

Some of Mr. Chipman's specialist colleagues consider South Africa a misleading example.

While the government of 1985 was no democracy, it was accountable to the white, voting population, they point out. Many whites opposed apartheid either for moral reasons or because they saw it leading the country to ruin.

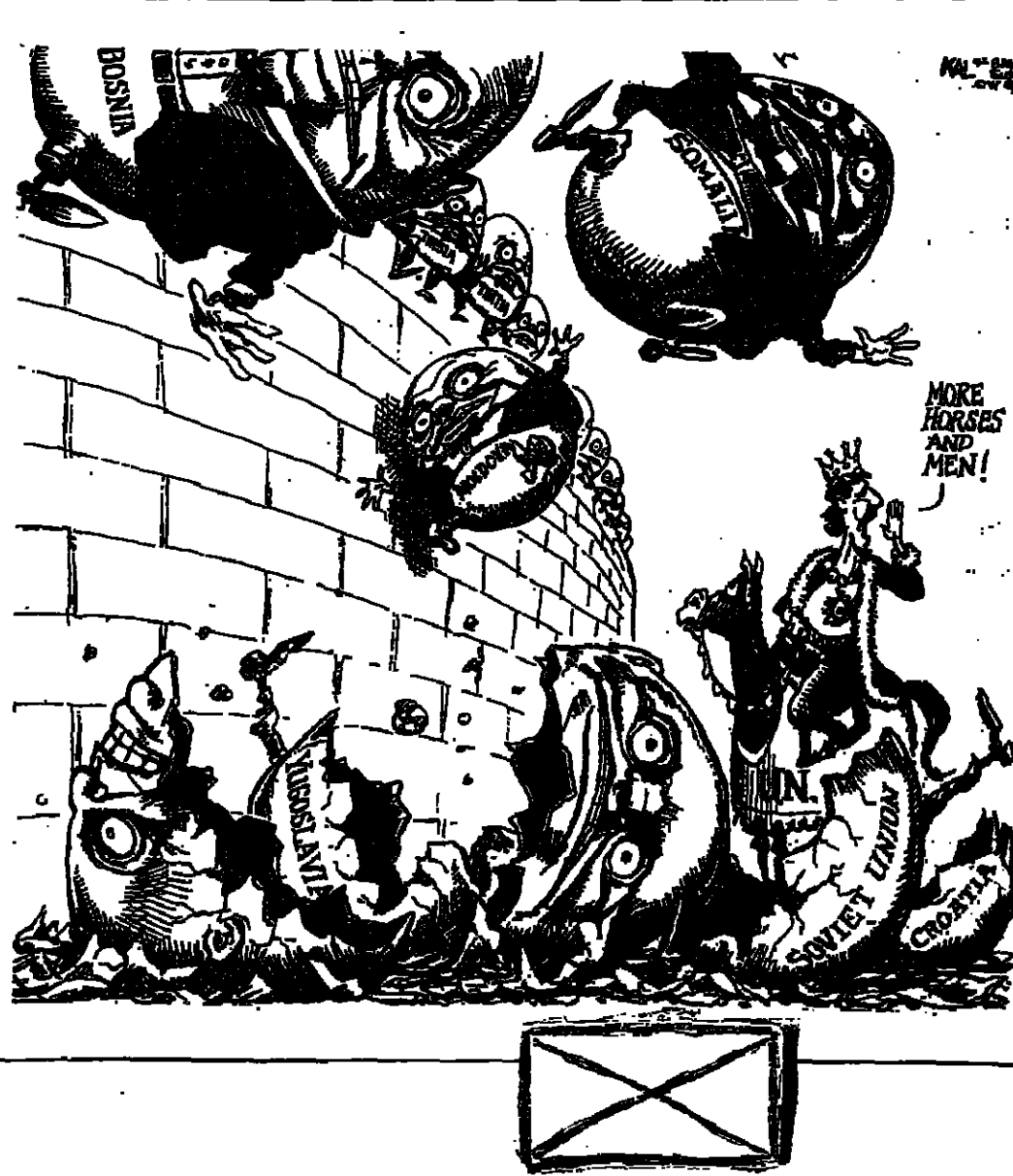
No such accountability exists in, for example, Iraq and Cuba. There, the governments use suffering to drum up hatred for foreigners.

Even dissidents oppose the 30-year-old U.S. economic embargo of Cuba, according to a report in March by the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Referring to a decision of the U.S. Congress in November to tighten the embargo, the report called economic sanctions "the surest way of prolonging" human rights abuses on the island. Historically, economic sanctions have seldom worked, said Gary Hufbauer of the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Freezing Panama's bank assets did not drive out President Manuel Noriega, he said, nor did China ease its human rights policies in response to sanctions imposed after the June 1989 massacre of protesters in Tiananmen Square. To oust Mr. Noriega, the United States finally invaded Panama in 1989.

"We haven't found the magic trick in moderating foreign governments," Mr. Hufbauer said.



Israel extends siege of occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

view." Mr. Sarid said after the six-hour session.

But Mr. Rubinstein, also from Meretz, said the closure was needed to ensure security and progress in peace talks. In March, 13 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, several of them labourers, and the public outcry for a crackdown threatened to undermine support for the negotiations.

The closure has been effect for two weeks in Gaza and a week and a half in the West Bank.

It prevented the 65,000 Christians in the occupied territories, a third of whom are Catholics, from reaching Jerusalem for Easter.

Israeli troops also raided Nuseirat refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, rounding up all the men and ransacking a house, Palestinians said. Troops shot and wounded five Palesti-

nians in the strip.

Israel lifted a three-day curfew on Khan Younis town in the Gaza Strip Sunday after raids ended. Palestinians reported dozens of arrests.

Palestinians said troops clamped a curfew on Nuseirat before the pre-dawn raid for Palestinian activists on Sunday. The raid continued throughout the day with troops rounding up all men aged 15 to 60.

Palestinians said soldiers destroyed a house with rockets and shot and seriously wounded Mohammad Dokhan, 21.

Military officials said Dokhan was shot when he fled from troops while carrying a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. Dokhan was wanted for attacking soldiers.

Israeli troops sometimes fire rockets at houses where they say suspect wanted men are hiding in them.

Pilgrims celebrate Easter

(Continued from page 1)

closure has prevented them from being together for the holiday," said Marwan Tubasi, president of the executive committee of the Greek Orthodox community.

The road connecting the northern and southern halves of the West Bank runs through Jerusalem.

In Vatican City, Pope John Paul II greeted 50,000 faithful on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica on Easter Sunday saying the season of Christian Joy was tempered for him by wars in the former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union.

"How can you be silent today — a day of peace — in the face of fratricidal struggle that bloodies the Caucasus region, in the face of the atrocious drama which is being played out implacably in Bosnia-Herzegovina?" the Pope asked.

After two years of repeated

pleas for the combatants to come to terms, the pontiff used his traditional Easter address to beg for an end to the war that has left at least 134,000 dead or missing.

"Leaders of nations, men of goodwill, with my heart swollen with sorrow, I yet again turn to each one of you — stop the war," the Pope pleaded in his speech "Urbi et Orbi" (Latin for to the city of Rome and to the world).

"Put an end, I beg you, to the unspeakable cruelties which are violating the dignity of man and which offend God, just and merciful Father."

On the day marking Christianity's most joyful day, the resurrection of Christ, the Pope asked: "Who will be able to say: I did not know?"

"No-one will be able to consider themselves extraneous to such a tragic affair, which is humiliating Europe and is risking the future of peace."

Rantisi says expulsion was engineered

(Continued from page 1)

Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, to which most of the exiles belong.

The fundamentalist groups oppose the peace talks with the Israelis which started in 1991.

Dr. Rantisi insisted that the Palestinian delegation to the talks does not represent the exiles or the people of the West Bank and Gaza.

"We did not and will not entrust the Palestinian delegation to speak for us," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

"The issue of our deportation has been coordinated with the Palestinian delegation and what is happening now is a production of the scenario that was prepared before the expulsion," Dr. Rantisi said without elaboration.

"We are aware that Hussein is

playing a major role in this scenario," he added.

Mr. Hussein may emerge as the officially recognised leader of the Palestinian negotiators when the talks resume under a compromise worked out by the United States, according to American and Israeli media reports.

In effect, he already is the leader of the Palestinian team, but he has not been allowed to sit at the negotiating table because Israel rejected the participation of Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

Asked if he will head the Palestinian team at the April 20 talks, Mr. Hussein said Sunday: "The issue was raised... but it is up to the Palestinian leadership to decide."

Clinton said to scale down Bush plan

(Continued from page 1)

appointed that the Clinton administration had failed to respond to its offer of a fresh start in relations.

Front-page editorials in Baghdad dailies expressed dismay at Friday's U.S. bombing of a military position in the north of the country. They said it proved Mr. Clinton had not learned from the mistakes of Mr. Bush.

"We have seen many irresponsible deeds by the new U.S. administration which confirm that it has not yet learned from past lessons and is willing to repeat the same ridiculous refrain that has proved unsuccessful with Iraq," the government daily Al Jumhuriyah said.

"Clinton's administration has still been following the footsteps of Bush and his administration's mistakes, resorting to the same means to harm the Iraqi people," the ruling Baath Party's daily Al Thawra said.

"Recent remarks by Clinton and (Secretary of State Warren) Christopher along with the latest provocative air attack by allied warplanes all embody the fact

that U.S. officials do not want to understand Iraq's standpoint and its genuine wish to establish new ties with the U.S. based on mutual respect and understanding and by solving all problems through peaceful means," Al Thawra added.

It said Iraq has stood by its ceasefire offer made when the Clinton administration took office in January "but U.S. officials have expressed on more than one occasion their adoption of a deplorable colonial policy which expresses nothing other than arrogance, power and enmity to all that is humane and legitimate."

"But Iraq shall still hold to its principles and its leader unaffected by a few cluster bombs or thermal flares nor even by the ridiculous statements of this or that U.S. official," Al Thawra pledged.

Al Qadisiya newspaper complained, "the American position contradicts its slogans about peace and human rights."

Mr. Clinton has echoed Mr. Bush in saying that the United States will not tolerate any interference with Western jets patrolling the "no-fly" zones in Iraq.

Pakistan holds militants linked to Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) in Cairo to plant bombs in tourist sites.

A British tourist was killed and two Britons and five Germans were wounded in gun and bomb assaults by militants last year.

The Islamic Group recently sent a fax from a post office in Peshawar to Cairo warning of further attacks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed last week to enact measures to stop Egyptian militants using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as a base.

Police officer killed

Four suspected muslim extremists on Sunday shot dead a senior police officer and two others in southern Egypt in revenge for the killing of a fellow militant, police said.

As police searched for the four suspects, a curfew was clamped on the three areas of Al Badary, Al Ghanayem and Sadafa, near the southern town of Assiut where the shooting occurred.

Assiut, a hotbed of Muslim extremist violence, is 320 kilometres south of Cairo.

Major General Mohammad Shaimy, Assiut's deputy security chief, his body guard and his driver were shot dead when the four suspected militants ambushed their car as it pulled out of a police station in Abu Tig village on outskirts of Assiut, said a police officer.

The officer identified two of the four suspects as Abdul Rahim Abu Akrah, the nephew of a member of Egypt's parliament, and school teacher Mahmoud Al Solayim. Both of Egypt's parliament, and school teacher Mahmoud Al Solayim. Both are members of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya.

The officer said that the suspects were avenging the killing by police last month of another extremist in Abu Tig.

A man planted a bomb on a bus loaded with German tourists outside Cairo's citadel Sunday, security sources said.

The guide for the German party raised the alarm after spotting the man put a bag under one of the front seats near the door of the bus as the tourists sat inside.

Police arrested the man and found a small bomb in the bag. One security source said the man was suspected to belong to Al Gamaa.

Mubarak, Rabin to meet on Wednesday

(Continued from page 1)

issue.

On Saturday, Mr. Hussein said the Palestinians were willing to return to the talks and were no longer demanding all of the exiles be returned, though other mat-

ters still needed clarification.

And Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon said Mr. Hussein's presence could lend the Palestinian team more authority.

"If Faisal Hussein is included then we will be able to progress on substance," Mr. Ramon said.

U.S. defence budget shows post-cold war intentions

By Jim Adams
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Defence Secretary Les Aspin outlined Saturday defence cuts he said will reshape U.S. post-cold war forces for fighting Gulf war-type conflicts and produce an \$88 billion peace dividend.

Mr. Aspin announced a \$263.4 billion defence budget for next year that shows how he expects to shape the military for fighting regional wars and conducting peacekeeping and relief operations like the one in Somalia.

How? Mr. Aspin expects to sharply cut the huge U.S. troop and nuclear force aligned against the former Soviet Union but keep, expand and improve the high-tech weapons and methods that won the Gulf war.

"This is in many ways the first truly post-cold war budget," Mr. Aspin said at a press conference. "It cuts cold war forces and begins to buy the new capabilities

we need to meet the new dangers we face."

But opponents say Mr. Aspin and President Bill Clinton are cutting U.S. defences too fast.

Mr. Aspin said the new budget would begin cuts for an \$88 billion peace dividend over four years.

Mr. Clinton's five-year economic plan calls for \$12 billion in defence cuts and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn told the Senate that cuts related to defence will raise the total to \$172 billion over five years.

Several Senate Republicans cited Russian President Boris Yeltsin's struggle to stay in power. They wanted to restrain Clinton defence cuts on grounds that world dangers include renewed communist control of Russian nuclear weapons.

But Mr. Aspin said Saturday the old Soviet bloc cold war threat is gone and Russia is more likely to be a regional threat to its neighbours than a renewed threat to the West.

He suggested that could require U.S. participation in some sort of international peacekeeping operation but said "this does not require a \$300 billion defence budget."

Mr. Aspin said the new U.S. military force must be able to fight Gulf-type wars against such potential foes as Iran, Libya and North Korea participate in international peacekeeping operations.

He said that will require fast cargo planes and ships to transport troops, military equipment, food and medicine.

That translates into specific weapons in Mr. Aspin's \$263.4 billion budget: \$2.6 billion for the new C-17 cargo plane and more than \$1 billion for ships to carry troops and weapons.

The budget also calls for ensuring technologically superior weapons by modernising M-1 heavy battle tanks, Blackhawk helicopters, F-16 and F-14 fighter planes and Aegis anti-aircraft and anti-missile ships.

It includes \$3.8 billion for Strategic Defence Initiative anti-missile defence development that used to be known as "Stars Wars" for its futuristic space weapons.

More than half the \$3.8 billion is for better short-range anti-missiles to defend U.S. troops and allies in a war as Patriot missiles did in the Gulf war.

These are only adjustments to the defence budget former President George Bush planned for next year, which also was moving to a smaller, more mobile U.S. military force.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Aspin have only been in office since Jan. 20, and Mr. Aspin said studies for their defence budgets after next year will not be completed until this summer.

He said those budgets will be based on a new concept of determining what kinds of wars and operations U.S. forces may undertake in the post-cold war era and what weapons and how many troops are needed.



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Bosnian Serbs say no-fly zone will bring more war

SARAJEVO (R) — The NATO operation to police a United Nations no-fly zone over Bosnia could intensify the war in the former Yugoslav republic, according to Bosnia's rebel Serbs.

Radovan Karadzic said that while his side would not provoke an incident, rival Croat and Muslim forces might do so.

"The Muslim side or the Croatian side may shoot down some of the aircraft and that would be a real escalation of the war," he told Reuters Television Saturday evening at the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale, near Sarajevo.

Enforcement of the no-fly zone declared by the U.N. last October is scheduled to begin at 1200 GMT Monday. The 50 or 60 NATO fighters being used in the operation are ready to shoot down violators if necessary.

Concern about possible reprisals against U.N. troops delivering humanitarian aid in Bosnia has led NATO to order its pilots only to open fire after repeated warnings to intruders, or in self defence.

Mr. Karadzic said the U.N. resolution on the no-fly zone was "absolutely unnecessary" because the Bosnian Serbs were not violating the flight ban.

The U.N. has recorded some 500 violations of Bosnian airspace, mostly by Serb fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Commander Barry Frewer, a spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force in Sarajevo, said the Serbs last week violated the exclusion zone by using helicopters to transport troops involved in the siege of the Muslim town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has suspended its aid flights into Sarajevo on security grounds ahead of the start of the no-fly zone operations.

UNHCR spokesman John McMillan said the decision had been taken because of the presence of Serb anti-aircraft guns near Sarajevo Airport, the threat to aid aircraft overflying Serb territory and Thursday's discovery by the Serbs of ammunition being smuggled to Muslim fighters on board a U.N. aid truck.

At about the same time as NATO fighters begin their mission Monday, commanders of the rival Bosnian Serb and Muslim armies are scheduled to meet under U.N. auspices at Sarajevo Airport to try and reach a peace deal for Srebrenica.

A ceasefire around the town went into force Saturday and was immediately violated when four mortar rounds landed close to a UNHCR convoy, injuring four children standing nearby, Commander Frewer said.

However, Commander Frewer reported general calm prevailing in the Srebrenica area Sunday morning, a day after the ceasefire went into force and two days after the Serbs were seen to be closing in on the town, which has been under siege for a year.

The Muslims have made a cessation of hostilities around Srebrenica a condition of their attendance at Monday's airport talks. They walked out of a similar meeting on April 6 because of heavy fighting around Srebrenica.

U.N. efforts to evacuate up to 15,000 more refugees from Srebrenica were expected to resume Monday, Mr. McMillan said. This time, covered trucks would be used as Muslim leaders in Srebrenica had refused to let refugees board open trucks Saturday, saying evacuees would be exposed to extreme cold.

If Srebrenica was relatively quiet, there were numerous reports of fighting elsewhere in Bosnia, with each side accusing the other of violating the ceasefire first declared on March 28.

Russia initiated a diplomatic offensive this weekend to prevent the U.N. Security Council from adopting a resolution Monday tightening sanctions against Yugoslavia, diplomats said.

President Boris Yeltsin sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton, presumably to get a delay in the vote which is designed to punish Serbs for resisting a peace accord in Bosnia, they said.

Some Russian officials were contemplating a veto if the vote was held Monday as scheduled, the envoys added.

In Washington, London and Paris, officials contacted each other to decide whether to press for a vote and how to assess whether Russia would veto the measures.

Russia has not vetoed a Security Council resolution since 1984. Moscow has a policy of not abstaining on any vote, believing that differences with the four other permanent members of the Council — the United States, Britain, France and China — have to be worked out in advance.

Western envoys believed it would be risky for Moscow to cast a no vote ahead of a Group of Seven meeting in Tokyo this week when finance and foreign ministers of the major industrial nations will discuss aid for Russia.

Meanwhile an opinion poll said Americans are growing more wary of any involvement in the Yugoslav civil war and oppose sending U.N. troops to deliver humanitarian aid or restore peace in Bosnia.

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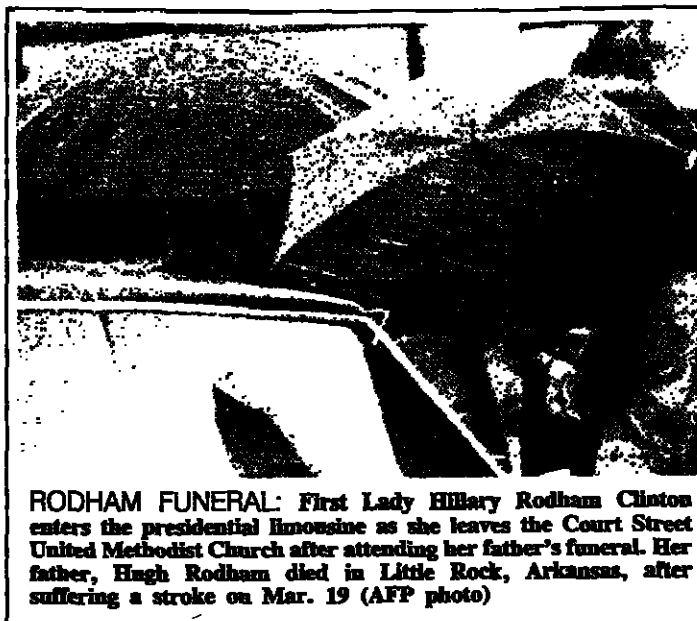
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RODHAM FUNERAL: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton enters the presidential limousine as she leaves the Court Street United Methodist Church after attending her father's funeral. Her father, Hugh Rodham died in Little Rock, Arkansas, after suffering a stroke on Mar. 19 (AFP photo)

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. must stop Khmer Rouge killings — Hanoi

HANOI (R) — The United Nations and Cambodia's leaders must end massacres of ethnic Vietnamese by the Khmer Rouge Maoist guerrilla army, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said Sunday. Speaking to reporters after welcoming U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for talks in Hanoi, Mr. Kiet made clear the pre-election turmoil in neighbouring Cambodia was the chief issue on his mind. "The secretary-general will have to end the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia," Mr. Kiet said. "Protection of Vietnamese residents is the responsibility of the United Nations and the leadership of Cambodia." Meanwhile the United Nations on Easter Sunday honoured two of its murdered peacekeepers at a ceremony marked by expressions of bitterness over lack of protection for U.N. volunteers in Cambodia. Senior U.N. officials, diplomats, friends and family gathered at the headquarters of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in Phnom Penh for a memorial service for Atsuto Nakata, a 25-year-old district election supervisor, and Lay Sok Pliep, his Cambodian interpreter. The two men were gunned down by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia Thursday morning.

Tajikistan's former president dies

MOSCOW (R) — Tajikistan's ousted President Rakhmon MOSCOW said this weekend at the age of 63, Interfax News Agency said Sunday. Interfax said Mr. Nabyev's bodyguards had found the body of the former president in his bed. The cause of death had not yet been established. Mr. Nabyev, then head of the republican Communist Party was in charge of the Central Asian republic from 1992 to 1995. He was sacked shortly after former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev took power and launched his perestroika reforms. But he bounced back in September 1991 when parliament elected him president after a failed coup attempt by Soviet hardliners. The election set off a year of bloody fighting between his supporters and a coalition of Muslim activists and democrats. He was forced to resign in September last year. The opposition coalition took control but was soon ousted by ex-Communist forces after fierce fighting throughout the impoverished republic. Interfax said Mr. Nabyev's funeral would take place Monday in Khojand, his northern stronghold.

U.S. shuttle deploys satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery Sunday deployed a small satellite designed for a two-day study of solar wind and the Sun's atmosphere. Mission specialist Ellen Ochoa used the shuttle's triple-jointed robot arm to grasp the 2,840-pound (1,290-kg) spartan satellite, unberth it and set it adrift high above the cargo bay. The \$6 million satellite wobbled once as its onboard telescopes began to function over Europe. Mission Commander Ken Cameron then fired Discovery's steering jets three times to manoeuvre away from the box-shaped satellite, which will fly free until it is retrieved by the shuttle Tuesday. Two telescopes will record information about the solar wind and the Sun's Corona. Scientists have discovered a connection between the Sun's outermost atmosphere — the Corona — and weather patterns of Earth.

Progress expected at fresh Angola talks

ABIDJAN (R) — Delegates to the latest round of Angolan peace talks, due to open in Ivory Coast Monday, are optimistic that some progress can be made, although a full solution appears remote.

The Abidjan talks follow an inconclusive January round in Addis Ababa after Angola slid back into full-scale civil war. A session scheduled for the Ethiopian capital in February was abandoned because UNITA rebels failed to appear for negotiations with the MPLA government.

Participants at the latest talks hope that at the very least a ceasefire between the warring sides can be arranged as a prelude to further bargaining.

"When we met in Addis Ababa in January... we did reach agreement on quite a number of points, there is a basis of agreement on which to proceed," U.N. Angola envoy Margaret Anstee told reporters when she arrived in Abidjan Saturday.

Ms. Anstee said she had asked both sides to suspend fighting in order to bolster the peace talks and allow aid to be shipped across battle lines.

Neither had yet agreed, she said, but she believed a truce was possible. "I believe we will make some progress on this, it needs an agreement between the two sides and this is one of the subjects that I think will be on our agenda here," she said.

UNITA delegate John Marques Kakumba said Angolans were tired of war and the rebels were happy to talk peace.

"UNITA does not believe weapons will win, only dialogue will win, we are not warmongers," he said.

Despite the upbeat public statements enormous hurdles remain. Both sides reported continued fighting Saturday — near the central Angolan town of Menongue and in the oil-rich northwestern enclave of Cabinda.

UNITA is accused of breaking 1991 peace accords that were to have ended 16 years of civil war and it refused to accept the results of U.N.-supervised elections last September in which the MPLA emerged victorious.

Its charges of election fraud were unsubstantiated by U.N. observers. The United States, a UNITA ally in the days when the MPLA was aligned to the Soviet Bloc, says any deal must recognise the hard facts of the poll result.

"Certain events have taken place, like fair elections that the world recognised, we're not going to walk away from the fact that there were these elections," a U.S. official said at preparatory talks in Abidjan last month.

defendants had no choice but to use force because Mr. King violently resisted arrest.

The 28-year-old black motorist was driving drunk and was on parole after serving a year in prison on a robbery conviction.

Nine whites, two blacks and one Hispanic will decide the officers' guilt or innocence. It is a more racially balanced group than the Simi Valley jury, which had no black members.

Ignoring city officials' pleas that the verdict be sealed for up to a full day to allow preparations for unrest, Judge Davies said he would give no more than a 15-minute warning before reading the jury's decision in open court.

South Korea's consul-general to Los Angeles made an early return to his post Sunday in case of rioting after a verdict is reached, Yonhap News Agency said.

It said Kim Hang-Kyung, who was in Seoul for a conference, left to discuss anti-riot measures with U.S. authorities.

Hong Kong to push for fair elections

LONDON (AP) — Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten vowed in a newspaper column published Sunday to push for clean, fair elections in the colony, and said he was not bothered by recent "name-calling" by China.

Mr. Patten wrote in the Sunday Express that he hoped Britain and China would soon resume talks on how the 1995 legislative elections could be conducted.

The elections would be the last under British administration, as Hong Kong is due to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

Mr. Patten wants to broaden the electorate, but China disagrees, fearing greater democracy in Hong Kong could lead to pressure for similar changes inside China.

"I very much hope that the argument that we are having with China at the moment will be resolved, but it is important for us all to be clear what it is all about," Mr. Patten wrote in the column.

"The argument really boils down to whether the 1995 elections... will be conducted cleanly, openly, and fairly or whether they will be rigged to produce a rubber-stamp legislature guaranteed to be compliant rather than potentially troublesome," he wrote.

Mr. Patten said he believes a legislature "arrived at cleanly, fairly and openly, and not cooked to be acceptable to one particular party or another, is fundamental to the rule of law."

China has warned Mr. Patten that if he goes ahead with his plans to extend voting rights, it will replace the colonial government in 1997 and tear up all business contracts signed under the British administration.

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Gorbachev 'will not' vote in referendum

RICHMOND, Va. (Agencies) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday night he will not vote in Russia's referendum on President Boris Yeltsin because he thinks it is a waste of time.

He said Russia needs free multi-party elections as soon as possible rather than the vote of confidence in the president set for April 25.

"We simply have no time now for referendums," Mr. Gorbachev said at the Richmond Forum as he started a four-day speaking tour of Virginia.

Mr. Gorbachev said since his fall from power in 1991, political and economic reforms have been failing. In addition, real incomes in his country have fallen by half and crime has risen during that time, he said.